

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. ... Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17, 19)

In the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all the issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy. (Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*)

7) Forgiveness ... Is \_\_\_\_\_.

Despite a hundred sermons on forgiveness, we do not forgive easily, nor find ourselves easily forgiven. Forgiveness, we discover, is always harder than the sermons make it out to be. (Elizabeth O'Connor)

We all agree forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it. (C.S. Lewis)

## Forgiveness

### *The Steps To Freedom*

1) \_\_\_\_\_ ... With \_\_\_\_\_.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ ... \_\_\_\_\_ Their \_\_\_\_\_.

I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)

3) \_\_\_\_\_ ... \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. (Luke 6:27)

The rule for us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

March 2/3, 2019  
Michael Yearley

## Forgiveness

### *The Path To Freedom*

---

## The Surprise

## Loving People

### *Doing Relationships A Whole New Way*

## Forgiveness

### *The Path To Freedom*

1) Forgiveness ... Is \_\_\_\_\_.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

While there are many ways we can deal with our anger, forgiveness holds the most promise for aiding us to effectively resolve our feelings of anger. ... No person is emotionally or spiritually mature who has not mastered the art of forgiving. (Archibald Hart, *Unlocking the Mystery of Your Emotions*)

2) Forgiveness ... Is A \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)

If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15)

3) Forgiveness ... Is \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 6:12 & 18:27

What Forgiveness Isn't

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 25:7/Isaiah 43:25/Jeremiah 31:34

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ Or \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiving does not mean excusing. Many people seem to think it does. They think if you ask them to forgive someone who has cheated or bullied them you are trying to make out that there was really no cheating or bullying. But if that were so, there would be nothing to forgive. (C.S. Lewis)

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

In the Bible "to forgive" literally means "to let go." When someone commits a sin against another, they have committed an injustice against that person. Consequently, the offender has incurred a debt to the injured party. The New Testament defines forgiveness as "letting go of that debt." In practical terms, forgiveness means deciding to let go of hurting back the person who has hurt you. This is not a matter of good feelings or a particular state of mind. It is a decision I make, a choice not to hurt back. (Larry Barber, *Forgiveness*)

We forgive someone of a wrong they have done us when we decide that we will not make them suffer for it in any way. (Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*)

4) Forgiveness ... Is A \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Forgiveness ... \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgiveness is setting a prisoner free and then discovering the prisoner was you. (Anonymous)

Don't forgive, and your anger will become your burden. Don't forgive, and bit by bit all the joy will be choked out of you. Don't forgive, and you will be unable to trust anyone again. Don't forgive, and the bitterness will crowd the compassion out of your heart slowly, utterly, forever. (John Ortberg, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them*)

Not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die. (Anne Lamott)

6) Forgiveness ... \_\_\_\_\_ An \_\_\_\_\_ Of \_\_\_\_\_.